

JS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

MICHAEL CLAGETT

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email Address)

Craig Thor Kimmel, Esquire  
Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.  
30 E. Butler Pike  
Ambler, PA 19002  
(215) 540-8888

**DEFENDANTS**

CREDIT MANAGMNT LP and FOCUS RECEIVABLES MANAGEMENT llc

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known) \_\_\_\_\_

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|   | PTF                        | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                        |
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FOREFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury  <b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other  <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act  <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark  <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))  <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition		

**V. ORIGIN**

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
15 U.S.C. Section 1692Brief description of cause:  
Fair Debt Collection Practices Act**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S)**

(See instructions):

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation:

3/22/2010

/s/ Craig Thor Kimmel

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 251 Aspen Road, Yardley, PA 19067  
 Address of Defendant: 8306 Laurel Fair Circle, Tampa, FL 33610  
 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 251 Aspen Road, Yardley, PA 19067  
 (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)

Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?

(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))

Yes ☐ No ☒

Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?

Yes ☐ No ☒

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?  
 Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?  
 Yes ☐ No ☒
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?  
 Yes ☐ No ☒
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?  
 Yes ☐ No ☒

CIVIL: (Place ☒ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

A. Federal Question Cases:

1. ☐ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
2. ☐ FELA
3. ☐ Jones Act-Personal Injury
4. ☐ Antitrust
5. ☐ Patent
6. ☐ Labor-Management Relations
7. ☐ Civil Rights
8. ☐ Habeas Corpus
9. ☐ Securities Act(s) Cases
10. ☐ Social Security Review Cases
11. ☒ All other Federal Question Cases 15 U.S.C §1692  
 (Please specify)

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

1. ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury
3. ☐ Assault, Defamation
4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury
5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. ☐ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. ☐ Products Liability
8. ☐ Products Liability — Asbestos
9. ☐ All other Diversity Cases  
 (Please specify)

## ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check Appropriate Category)

I, Craig Ther Kimmel, counsel of record do hereby certify:  
☐ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  
☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 3/22/2010 Craig Ther Kimmel 57100  
 Attorney-at-Law Attorney I.D.#

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 3/22/2010 Craig Ther Kimmel 57100  
 Attorney-at-Law Attorney I.D.#

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM**

Michael Clagett  
v.  
Credit Management, LP and  
Focus Receivables Management, LLC

CIVIL ACTION  
  
NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

**SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:**

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ( )
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ( )
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( )
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ( )
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ( )
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

<u>3/22/2010</u> <b>Date</b>	<u>Craig Ther Kimmel</u> <b>Attorney-at-law</b>	<u>Michael Clagett</u> <b>Attorney for</b>
<u>(215) 540-8888</u> <b>Telephone</b>	<u>(215) 540-8817</u> <b>FAX Number</b>	<u>kimmel@creditlaw.com</u> <b>E-Mail Address</b>

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE  
3 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

4 MICHAEL CLAGETT,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 CREDIT MANAGEMENT LP

8 and

9 FOCUS RECEIVABLES  
10 MANAGEMENT LLC

11 Defendant.

)  
)  
) Civil Action No.:

) COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY  
) TRIAL

) (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices)  
)  
)  
)

12  
13 COMPLAINT

14 MICHAEL CLAGETT ("Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.,  
15 alleges the following against CREDIT MANAGEMENT LP and FOCUS RECEIVABLES  
16 MANAGEMENT, LLC:

17  
18 INTRODUCTION

19 1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15  
20 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.* ("FDCPA").

21  
22 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

23 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states  
24 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court  
25 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1367 grants this court  
supplemental jurisdiction over the state claims contained therein.

3. Defendant conducts business in the State of Pennsylvania and therefore, personal jurisdiction is established.

4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).

5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

## PARTIES

6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Yardley, Pennsylvania.

7. Plaintiff is a “consumer” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

8. Defendant, Credit Management LP (“CMLP”), is a company handling debt collection matters with headquarters located at 4200 International Parkway, Carrollton, Texas, 75007.

9. Defendant, Focus Receivables Management LLC (“Focus”), is a company handling debt collection matters with headquarters located 8306 Laurel Fair Cir, Tampa, FL 33610.

10. Both Defendants are a debt collector as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6), and sought to collect a consumer debt from Plaintiff.

11. Defendants acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

12. In or around September 2008 Plaintiff had a dispute with DirecTV regarding services they provided to Plaintiff.

13. Plaintiff returned various pieces of equipment to DirecTV, indicating that it did not work as it was described, including a DVR and receiver.

14. Because DirecTV could not provide equipment that operated as described,

1 Plaintiff elected to terminate his contract with DirecTV via letter in September 2008.

2 15. Defendant Focus began contacting Plaintiff in early 2009 via telephone and letter  
3 regarding an alleged debt owed to DirecTV.

4 16. Plaintiff advised Defendant Focus that he had cancelled his service with DirecTV  
5 after it could not provide him with the services requested.

6 17. Defendant Focus did not care about this explanation and demanded payment  
7 from Plaintiff.

8 18. Plaintiff advised Focus in May 2009 that he disputed the debt and provided them  
9 a copy of his letter to DirecTV from September 2008.

10 19. Defendant once again contacted Plaintiff following receipt of his letter.

11 20. Plaintiff encouraged Defendant to sue him and noted that he had witnesses to  
12 document DirecTV's failure to provide the services requested.

13 21. Thereafter, Defendant CMLP contacted Plaintiff in or around December 2009.

14 22. Defendant CMLP threatened to report him to the credit bureaus if he failed to pay  
15 and/or sue him for failure to pay.

16 23. Plaintiff put CMLP on notice that, as he did Focus, that he disputed the debt.

17  
18 **CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW**

19 24. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay &  
20 Durand, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer  
21 need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v.  
22 Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233  
23 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status  
24 violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).

25. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). “Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 *et seq.*, is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer.” Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).

26. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the “least sophisticated” consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not “made for the protection of experts, but for the public - that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced.” Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

**COUNT I**  
**DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT**

27. In its actions to collect a disputed debt, Defendants violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:

a. Harassing, oppressing or abusing Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692d.



- b. Causing Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with intent to annoy, abuse, or harass him, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5).
- c. Communicating or threatening to communicate to any person credit information which is known or which should be known to be false, including the failure to communicate that a disputed debt is disputed, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(8).
- d. Using unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692f.
- e. By acting in an otherwise deceptive, unfair and unconscionable manner and failing to comply with the FDCPA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, MICHAEL CLAGETT, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual compensatory damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for each violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.



**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, MICHAEL CLAGETT, demands a jury trial in this case.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

DATED: March 22, 2010

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C..

By: /s/ Craig Thor Kimmel

Craig Thor Kimmel

Attorney ID # 57100

Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

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